

The Tech



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letters

TO THE EDITOR:

There has been a great deal of talk concerning the continuance of the freshman motivation study. Some of this talk concerns the immediate usefulness of the report. These people, "Sure, we will find that freshman don't like quizzes; but we can't abolish the quizzes."

We must realize that a sociological study works on a much subtler level than the above statement indicates. Please remember that the Institute, and rightly so, feels that it is well worth one fifth of a student's time to study humanities. If we must be so pragmatic, we can say that this is for the purpose of broadening the foundation on which the student bases his engineering or scientific judgment.

In the same manner, why shouldn't the Administration have the benefit of a closer association with the motives, aims, "pulse" or what have you, that go to make up that unique entity among American college students, the MIT man. With this "pulse" in mind, a policy-maker will be bound to make at least as beneficial decision concerning students as he otherwise would have made.

The studies should, in my opinion, be continued at least until the end of the year. By then we will be better able to judge the value of the findings concerning the change in attitude of an Institute class.

Daniel Brand '58

Our objections to the study have hardly been pragmatically based. It is with its "subtler level," a double-edged sword, that we take issue. Ed.

TO THE EDITOR:

It is necessary for me to correct several misstatements in your page one story of Tuesday concerning the freshman student study.

1) I made no statement concerning funds for the study. In fact, the funds for collecting data through the first questionnaire, student journals, and interviews and for the analysis of these materials and the writing of a report were spent according to a budget planned in advance. As I understand it, new funds are being appropriated to administer and analyse a second questionnaire concerning experiences during the freshman year.

2) The purpose of the second questionnaire is not to determine the loss of "gung-ho-ness" and the "severe disillusionment" among MIT students. Although your story put both of those phrases in quotation marks, I did not use either of them. On the contrary, I made clear that I could not assume in advance that there was any decline in student morale during the freshman year. Many people believe that there is and others deny it. One objective of the study is to find out whether morale goes up, down, or stays the same, for whom each of these situations holds

true and why some of the students react to the MIT environment in one way and some in another.

3) I did not say that a four year study would have "useful manipulative consequences." I said nothing whatsoever about a four year study and I have a horror of manipulation. A four year study has been discussed in some memorandum but no one has yet recommended it.

What I did say was that some important factors affecting the experience of MIT freshmen — for instance the kind of educational past they have had — were beyond the power of MIT to control, whereas others — including aspects of the MIT environment itself were within their power to change if they should deem it wise to do so.

4) The study of an electrical equipment company which I cited at the panel discussion was not done by me but by Douglas MacGregor and Conrad Arensberg as I stated. I wish I could legitimately claim credit for it.

5) I did not say that I was looking for "longhairs, bohemians, politicians and playboys." I said that students on other campuses divided each other sometimes into type such as these and I wondered whether MIT students did anything of this sort.

Finally, I would like to say that it is a complete misunderstanding to interpret the freshman student study as an attempt to find out what students want and then to give it to them. No one could agree with the editor more wholeheartedly that such a simple minded idea would be deplorable. It is not for us to decide or even to suggest what the goals or policies of MIT should be. We are simply trying to provide some reliable and comprehensive information as to how students experience their freshman year. We hope the information will prove useful to those who have the task of determining policies and implementing them.

Yours truly,
Leila Sussmann
Wellesley College

Aside from a clear error of fact mentioned under the fourth point, it is our opinion that the conflict resolves itself into a matter of emphasis. The question is: Did The Tech report several statements made by Dr. Sussmann and others more positively than they might have wished? News Ed.

reviews

Him

Dramashop has done an excellent job in its production of e. e. cummings' *Him*. cummings has styled himself at times as a non-lecturer and *Him* probably can be described as a non-play. It is, however, quite rewarding theatre.

Him has been called "frightfully intellectual." It is; but, least anyone be discouraged, it is also frightfully funny, and for its comedy alone well worthwhile.

Embracing a kaleidoscope of cummings' ideas and attitudes, the non-play is studded with dualities, ambiguities and incongruities. Its title character is a duality, at least in his consciousness of his self (or selves). He describes himself at one time as everyone, but the duality of self is most intense in the artist, and Michael Meeker '58 admirably portrays cummings' riven playwright. Lynn Walzer is his lover, Me. Suitably female, she makes cummings' hyperbolic difficulties of their relationship charmingly true.

Judy Labrack, Solveig Troxel and Nancy Williams play the three Weirds, Furies who knit fate while they converse in hilarious incongruities, fraught with ribald allusions, with cackling skill. Donald Silverman '60 has, as cummings intended, ten roles and neatly carries off his difficult task. The remainder of the page long cast (most of which portray multiple roles) are uniformly good.

Him is somewhat suggestive of Kafka, in its interpretation of reality through what is best termed surrealism. Its lines are at first quite baffling and are never without a puzzle, primarily because it is impossible to exhaust the meaning and value in a single performance. cummings interposes topical satire with parables and paradoxes keeping all consistent with the general surface level of the work. The time sequence seems also irregular. These factors pose a problem of adjustment for the audience but one which can be overcome to a sufficient degree, and are troubling only in the first act.

The second act is a comedy triumph which culminates in frightening horror. It is, probably, the easiest act for the audience and to most will be the most enjoyable, as its content is — although symbolic — complete and ribaldly hilarious on the surface level. Its last scene is — stark in its terror — probably the most effective in the Dramashop presentation.

With nineteen scenes and some sixty characters, *Him* is an extremely difficult play (or non-play) to produce. It was also necessary to make deletions and adaptations in the script which — still ribald — was originally somewhat too raw and too long for presentation. Professor Joseph Everingham has done a splendid job. Worthy of note are the settings designed by Paul Brumby '59.

Him is a difficult and ambitious production. It is a successful one which should not be missed.

The Tech

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PSSC Concentrates on Films, Gadgets To Supplement Texts

Physicists Turn Actors in Watertown Movie Studio

The Physical Science Study Committee is now operating one of the largest and best equipped educational film studios in the East. Housed in a converted theater on Watertown Square, the group is busy six days a week turning out full-color educational films for use in high school physics courses throughout the country. Plans call for the production of three films per month, and the series will ultimately comprise some 75 forty-minute films. These represent

an important part of the committee's program to support natural science teaching in secondary schools. Dr. Elbert P. Little, Executive Director, said, "From the inception of the program in 1956, films have been a vital part of our plans. In the films we will attempt to show what the teacher cannot show. The films will add immeasurably to the effectiveness of texts, laboratory apparatus, and other materials being developed by the Committee. Through the films, subjects which are too large, too small,

too remote, or otherwise inconvenient for study can be brought into the classroom."

Hollywood in Watertown

From the exterior, the building has the appearance of simply a deserted theater; but inside one finds a complete renovation with high sound-proof walls, rugged cable-strewn floors, camera tracks, light banks, sound booms, and the like. Off the main shooting floor, furnished with laboratory sets and scientific apparatus, are found a modern sound room, a film editing studio, a dark room, an equipment assembly shop, and numerous storage spaces.

Specimens Sizzle

An excellent example of the need for close control may be seen in the Committee's current struggle of studio lights versus scientific phenomena. The powerful lights required for color movies often concentrate fifty kilowatts on a single laboratory bench at close range, a condition very much alien to the normal laboratory environment. Charged balloons for electrostatic experiments sway erratically in heat-convection currents; meters display spurious signals; guinea-pig goldfish have to be revived with ice cubes; and normally calm physicists grow fidgety. These effects occur despite a powerful and uniquely muffled air-conditioning system which cools the studio when the lights go down.

(Continued on page 5)

Do-It-Yourself Scientific Apparatus Brings University Facilities to High School Student

A small plaque beside the door is all that identifies the unpretentious headquarters of the Physical Science Study Committee in Watertown; neither it nor the exterior appearance of the building itself gives any indication of the furious activity and ingenious gadgets within. This building and a converted theater nearby comprise the total physical plant of the group that is revolutionizing the physics program in high schools throughout the country.

While the theater is being used exclusively for the filming of special supplementary lectures and demonstrations, it is in the main building that the mechanical properties are



"Take one!" says the director, as Prof. King prepares to be shot.

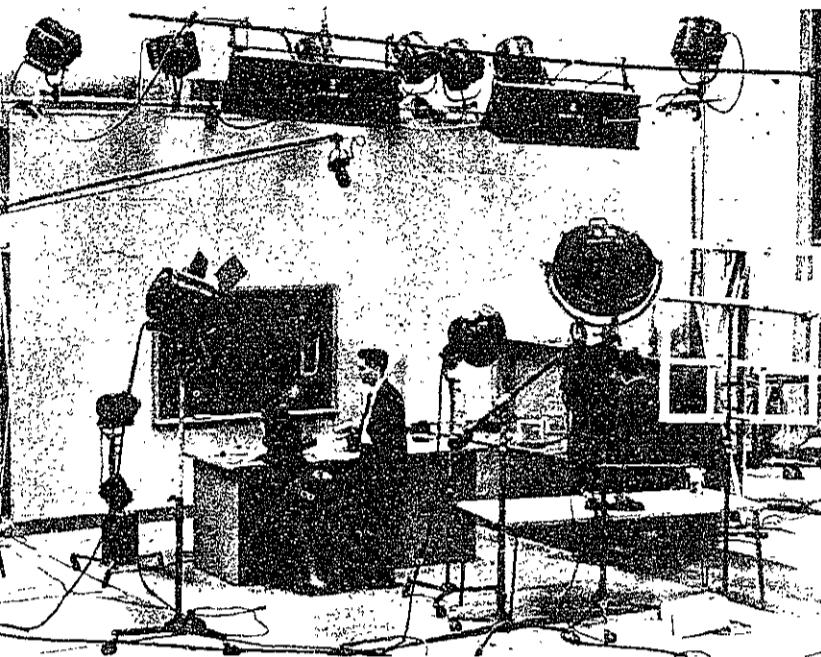
devised and perfected for use in the films and in the classroom directly. These devices are, to a large degree, the reason behind the success of the new program, since they can be built by the student with a minimum of time, trouble, and cost, yet still duplicate in principle the expensive devices used in laboratories and university lecture halls.

Many of the designs are contributed by science teachers from all parts of the country, but the majority of the devices still come from the group's own design lab and shop. Before a design is incorporated into the laboratory program, it must first satisfy several rigid demands imposed by the Committee: it must be inexpensive, since allocations for laboratory apparatus in most secondary schools are usually kept to a bare minimum; the construction must be simple, for the tools and materials must be as readily available about the home as around the school so that the student could, if he so desired, seek to improve the apparatus "after hours"; lastly, the project must be closely coordinated with the course. Also of importance is the adaptability of the basic design to a variety of different forms; this is particularly desirable since the instruction manuals for the devices give not so much the exact construction procedures, but rather the descriptions of the theories involved and a few references to previous devices of the same general type. As much as possible has been left to the student so that he might improvise and improve the suggested apparatus.

Even more interesting than the theory behind them are the designs themselves. The most important of these to date is the "ripple" tank, a machine used to generate waves under carefully controlled conditions. Such devices in the past cost \$100 or more, but the PSSC tank can be built for six or seven dollars. It is made from an ordinary window frame and glass, mounted on a wooden framework or cinder blocks. Under the pane is set a 100-watt bulb, and a sheet of paper is stretched over it; ripples on the surface of the water thus appear as shadows on the paper. The driving mechanism, for either plane or spherical waves, is made of wood, wire coat hangers, and ping-pong balls, and is powered by an inexpensive six-volt motor.

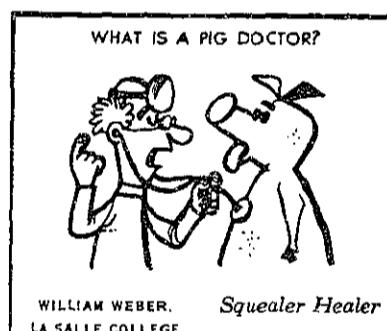
The ripple tank differs from other equipment developed for the course primarily in that at six dollars it is more expensive than most. For example, a micro-balance capable of weighing a fly's wing is designed to be built of a drinking straw and needles, at a cost of pennies.

(Continued on page 4)



Overall picture of stage reveals complexity of operation at PSSC film studio. Details are authentic even to discussion between teacher and student after lecture.

Sticklers!

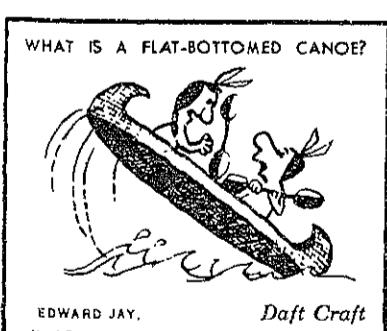


IN THE TWENTIES, up-to-date college gals wore raccoon coats, danced the Charleston and smoked Luckies. What's the rage on campus today? Raccoon coats. The Charleston. And Luckies! The conclusions are obvious.

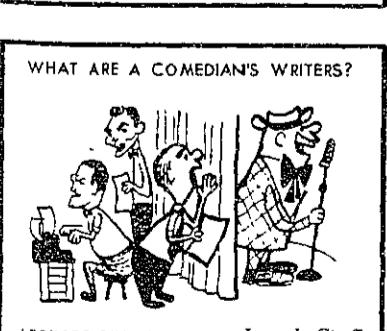
1. Luckies were tops for taste in the Twenties and still are. 2. Smart smokers knew it and still do. So any gal who takes Luckies to a Roaring 20's party is a *Dapper Flapper!* And by George, the boy friend who sports 'em, too, is a *Couth Youth!* Prediction: In the 1980's, raccoon coats, the Charleston and light, good-tasting tobacco will still be in style!



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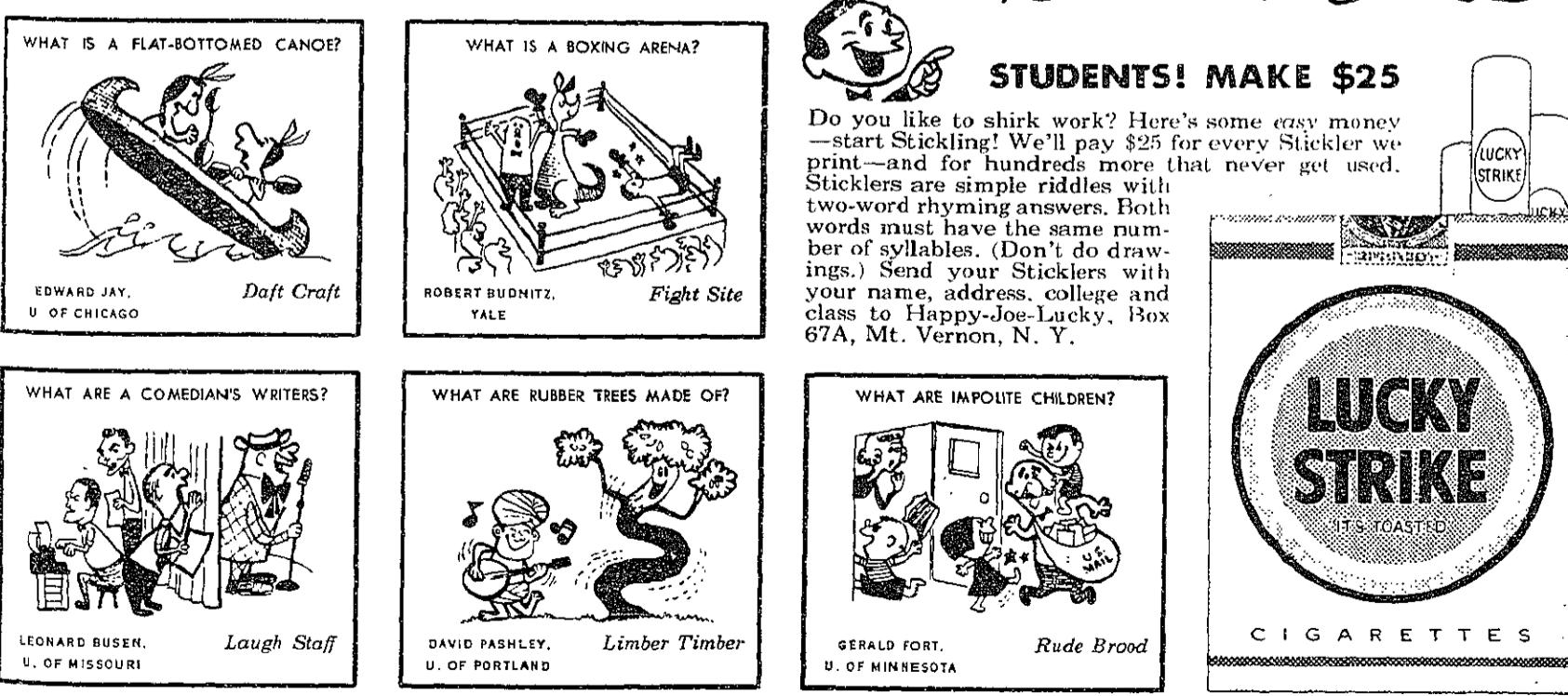


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LIGHT UP A *light* SMOKE—LIGHT UP A LUCKY!

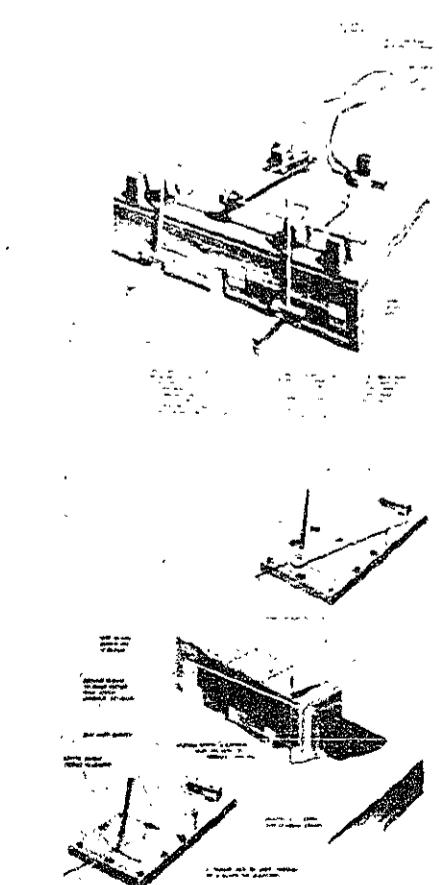
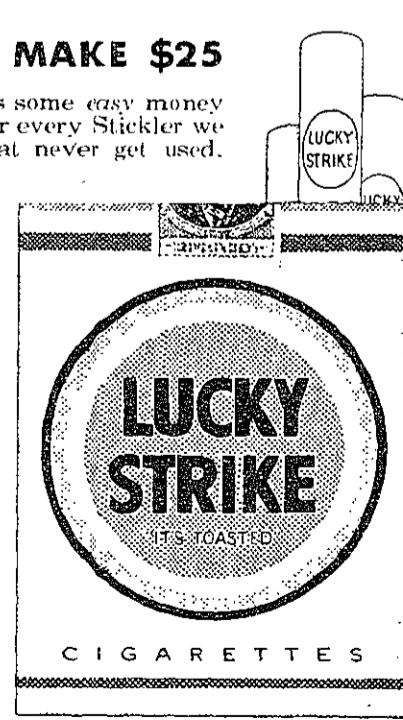
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The driving mechanism for a ripple machine, and a ten-cent micrometer are but a few of the devices of scientific interest that the PSSC has made readily available to all.

Frosh Trackmen Gain First Win

The freshman track team gained their first victory of the spring season Wednesday afternoon as the Beavers downed Governor Dummer 68½-48½ at Briggs Field. The yearlings led all the way, winning eight of the thirteen events, including a clean sweep of all three sprints. Don Morrison and Gary Gustafson, with 14 and 13 tallies respectively, were high pointmen for Tech.

Sprinters Sweep

Gustafson led the sprinters' performance with a double win, taking the 440-yard dash in :52.3 and the 220-yard dash in 23.8, and a second spot in the 100. Morrison, in addition to taking first in the pole vault and second in the broad jump, copped the 100 and placed third in the 220. Dick Otte, Dan McConnell, and George Withbroe completed the sprinters' shutout of the opposition.

Joe Davis, with 12 markers, was the third Techman in double figures. Davis had a victory in the low hurdles event, a tie for first in the high jump and second in the low hurdles.

White Shines

Brian White was outstanding in the distance events, leading off with a hard-fought-for second in the mile, and following with a brilliant effort in the 880, coming from behind in the last 200 yards to take the event in 2:08.7. Davis, McConnell, Morrison, and Ray Landis starred in the field.

McConnell Sets Record

While gaining his victory in the broad jump, Dan McConnell leaped 21' 2¼" to set a freshman outdoor record.

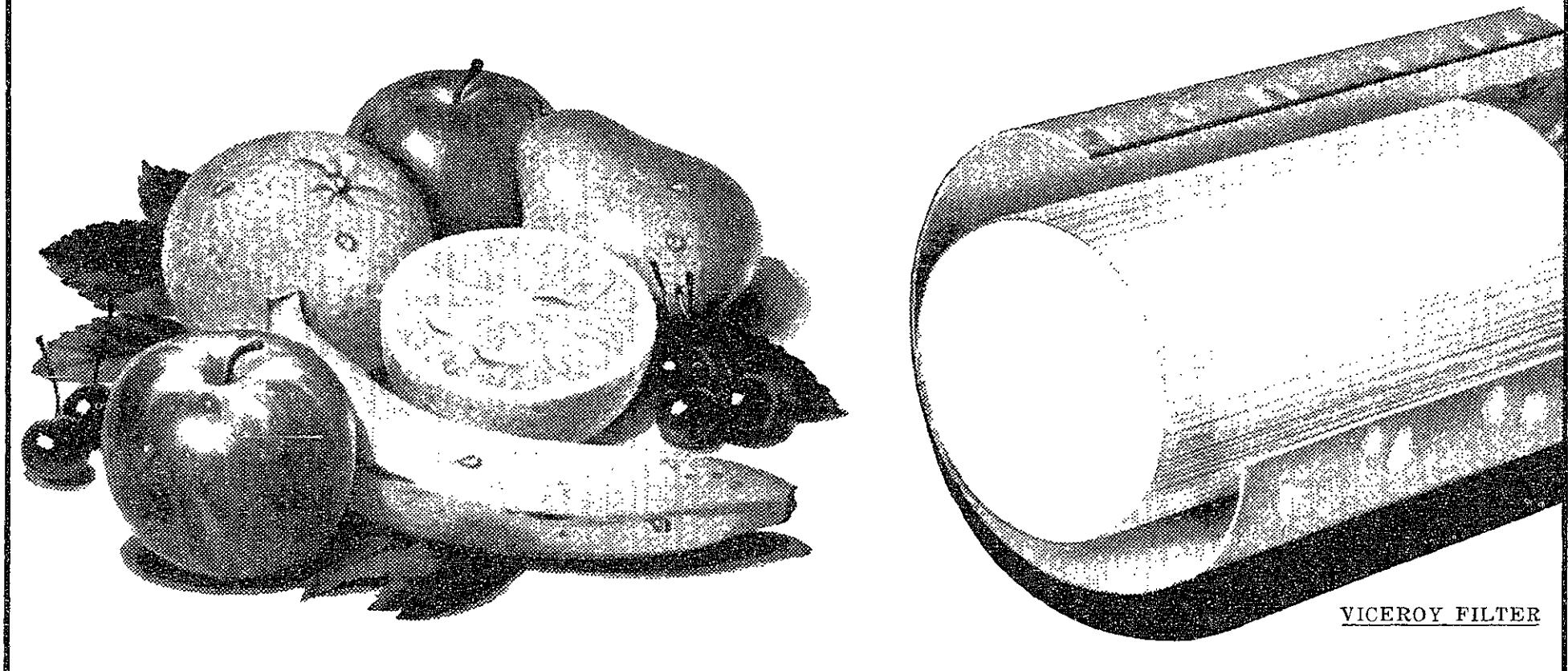
The frosh see action again along with the varsity against Tufts tomorrow afternoon.

PSSC II

(Continued from page 3)

Other items displayed in the office are: a ten-cent micrometer which operates on a reflection principle; a stroboscope made from a vintage phonograph record; another stroboscope, this one being much more efficient, made from an orange juice can; few scraps of cardboard, two batteries, a small motor, and a microstat; and what appears to be simply a battered toy globe mounted on a cardboard tube, but which is actually a miniature Van de Graaff generator capable of producing 75,000 volts.

What does this fruit have to do with this cigarette filter?



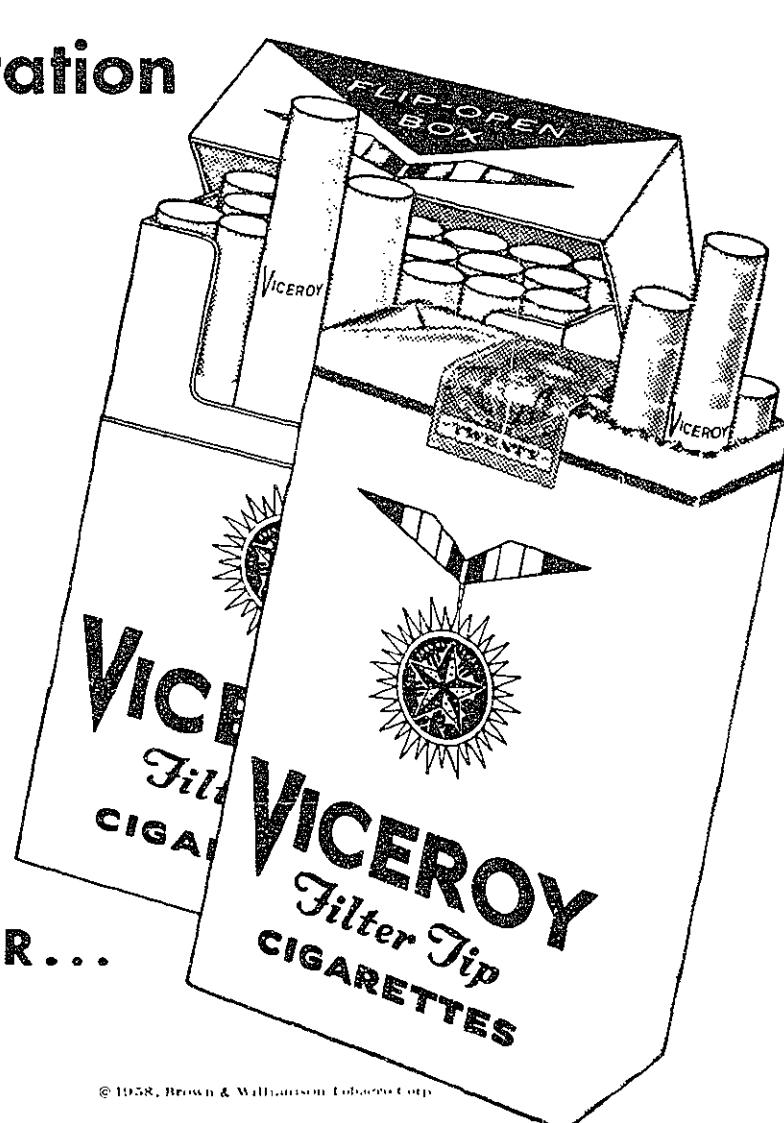
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Lacrosse Team Humbles Harvard, 6-5 Takes Lead in New England Conference

The varsity stickmen won their fifth straight game by erasing an early 4-0 deficit and going on to earn a hard-fought 6-5 victory over Harvard, Tuesday.

In the opening seconds the Crimson showed their traditional power, scoring two quick goals and following these up with more by the end of the period. The crowd in the Harvard mud flats east of the stadium bet the Cantab victory predicted in the Harvard Crimson coming true. They had not noticed that the Tech defense had tightened as the period ended.

After two minutes of second quarter play Dick File, '58 assisted by John Comerford, '59 slipped in the first Cardinal goal. Then for eleven minutes there was a deadlock. As rain began to fall, the Engineers gritted their teeth and didn't give an inch. And, with two minutes to go, John Comerford scored again to end the 4-2, Harvard.

The second half opened as the first half finished. Both of these top teams had steel defenses, but the Tech offense was beginning to gain an edge. In a beautifully executed move, Comerford was set up and scored after five minutes for the lone tally of the period. Thus the powerful Tech offensive machine had pushed back to within reach of victory.

Then in the first few seconds of the fourth quarter, Harvard cut through the Cardinal and Gray defenses for a score. With three minutes left their powerfully coordinated efforts smashed the Crimson defense when Comerford scored. A minute and a half later the Engineers were pressing the Cantab goal again as File drove in another to tie the game. Then to top off this tremendous effort the varsity lacrosse men swept down the field thirty seconds later and co-captain Huber Warner '58 powered in the crusher to give MIT its first la-

crosse victory over Harvard since 1942.

Immediately after the end of the game, the ecstatic players picked up their coach Ben Martin, and carried him on the field in tribute to his exceptional coaching, that may easily place MIT at the top of the New England Lacrosse Conference.

Coach Martin, an All American lacrosse player himself, welded together a tough team; and, though they lost their opener in a non-conference bout, convinced them that they could win. He instilled in them that spirit that takes a good team and makes them champions.

CANA CONFERENCE

A Cana Conference for married couples, sponsored by the Technology Catholic Club and the Christian Family Movement, will be held on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Lounge. Father Peter Shakalis will speak. All married people in the MIT community are invited to attend.

on deck

Saturday:

Baseball with Colby here 2:00 p.m.
Heavyweight Crew with Harvard, BU and Syracuse, here 5:30 p.m.
Lightweight Crew with Harvard and Navy here 4:00 p.m.
Lacrosse at UNH 2:00 p.m.
Frosh Lacrosse with UNH here

2:00 p.m.

Rugby at Yale 3:00 p.m.
Sailing - Sharpe Trophy at Providence

Tennis with UMass here 2 p.m.
Track with Tufts here 1:15 p.m.
Frosh Track with Tufts 1:15 p.m.

Sunday

Freshman Sailing Regatta at Medford.

PSSC I

(Continued from page 3)

Discussing the challenging problems of producing scientific films, producer-director Milan Herzog said, "In Hollywood we can use 'relief'. When something goes wrong, we just cut the sound and show birds and trees, spring skies, or actor's faces in rapt expressions. Nice effects! But here, we have no relief. All day today our only relief was the balloons floating up to the ceiling." Directors Herzog and Hal Kopel are with Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc.

CREW

(Continued from page 1)

The JV heavyweights make their spring debut tackling delegations from the same trio of colleges that are to face the Frosh heavies. The Techmen's prospects look good as there are several oarsmen from last year's powerful freshmen boat in the JV shell.

Closing out the afternoon's racing program will be the varsity heavy race featuring MIT, Harvard, BU and Syracuse, with the Beavers rowing in the newly christened shell, The "Julius A. Stratton." Dr. Stratton, Dr. Stratton and his family will be on hand in the launch to witness the maiden voyage of the shell in competition. Coach Frank DuBouis has high hopes for the Engineers who will certainly press the others harder than they did last season when they went winless.

With the added incentive of fine spring weather there should be a large, enthusiastic crowd on hand, as this will be the only chance local fans will have to see both the lights and heavies on the same program this spring. The 150-lb. Beaver eights have no more home races while the bigger oarsmen face Columbia, Wisconsin, and Boston University on May 10 for their only other Cambridge appearance.



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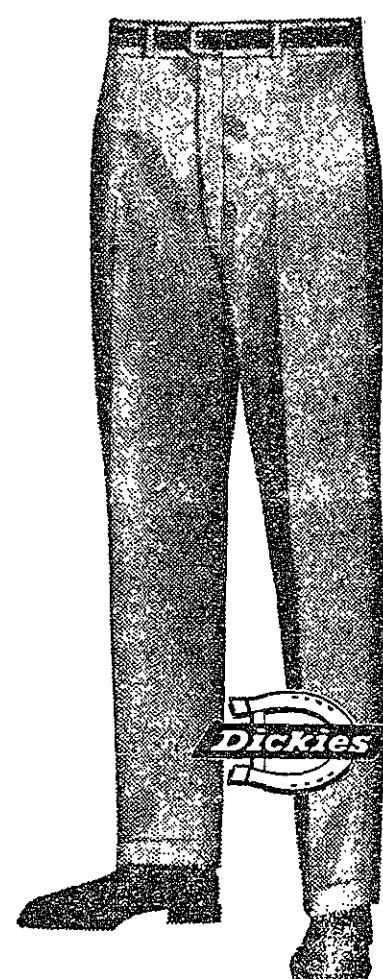
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COOP**

**THE CASE OF
THE MISMATCHED
COORDINATES**



I was placed under arrest at Guadalajara. Case of mistaken identity. The locals thought I was a rum-runner, name of Pepe Sanchez. Luckily, my Van Heusen sport shirt and matching walking shorts proved to them that I was a Yank.

I needed a quick one, so I floated into a tank joint in my Van Heusen leisure coordinates and ordered a V-8 on the rocks. Then I saw her.

"Pepe!" she called. She musta been talking to me—and I wasn't going to knock it.

"Si, Chiquita," and I followed her upstairs. She kissed me hard on the mouth. I misunderstood.

"How about a game of Spanish Jotto?" I asked. She misunderstood.

I felt her fingers under my collar. "Where is it, Pepe?"

"Where's what?"

"The microfilm, idiot. You were given orders to carry the guided missile data inside your slotted collar."

Little did Chiquita know that my Van Heusen sport shirt had Collarite sewn-in stays. Nobody was going to substitute microfilm for my microthin stays . . . because my stays can't come out . . . even in laundering.

The door flew open. A man stood there in flashy, ill-fitting yellow walk shorts with a pink sport shirt. Except for the guy's scroungy leisure clothes, he coulda been my twin.

"Get him Pepe!" said Chiquita.

He jumped me—and in the ensuing struggle, I stabbed him with his own collar stay. I turned Chiquita over to the authorities and Pepe was given a decent burial in Van Heusen matching sport shirt and slacks. The microfilm was recovered, the plans saved—and we owe it all to Van Heusen. Why not show your patriotism by wearing Van Heusen leisure slacks, sport shirts, walking shorts, and swimwear.

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Bushleaguer**IM Softball Season Well Underway**

Although delayed for a day due to inclement weather, the intramural softball season got underway on Sunday, April 13, with the playing of thirteen games. The forty-four teams which will compete for the championship have been divided into eight leagues with each team playing every other team in its league. The team compiling the best record in each league will enter a final playoff.

About a third of the one hundred scheduled preliminary games have been played to date. Some of the teams which have shown up strong thus far include, United Christian Fellowship, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Gamma Delta, and the defending champions, Graduate House A.

Scores of games played to date as announced by softball manager, Bob Thomson '58 are:

Burton B 40—Kappa Sigma 2
Sigma Phi Epsilon A 19—Club Latino 11
Phi Kappa 21—Tau Epsilon Phi 10
Graduate House Dining Staff 12—Delta Kappa Epsilon 11
15 Club 16—Graduate House Dining Staff 15
Student House 20—Alpha Tau Omega 13
Phi Gamma Delta 8—Delta Tau Delta 4
Phi Mu Delta 29—Sigma Phi Epsilon B 7
East Campus 4—Phi Sigma Kappa 2
Sigma Nu 17—Pi Lambda Phi 9
Baker House A 22—Theta Delta Chi 7
Graduate House 16—Sigma Alpha Mu 4
Sigma Chi 6—Graduate House B 5
Student House 10—Delta Upsilon 3
Burton House C 15—Sigma Phi Epsilon B 10
Phi Mu Delta 10—Phi Delta Theta 9
East Campus 6—Baker House B 2
Theta Chi 14—Phi Sigma Kappa 6
Sigma Alpha Epsilon 12—Chemical Engineering 0
United Christian Fellowship 37—Chemical Engineering 3
Pi Lambda Phi 9—Phi Beta Epsilon 4
Sigma Alpha Epsilon 19—Sigma Nu 3
Pi Lambda Phi 12—Chemical Engineering 9

Golf Team Defeats Tufts and Brown in Early Season Play

As a result of the first three meets of the season the MIT golf team has found themselves victors over Tufts and Brown while losing to Williams, Harvard and Wesleyan.

Last Thursday the Tech golfers opened the season with a 5 to 2 victory over Tufts. Captain Bob Rosenfeld '59, Colin Clive '60, Jack Fischer '59, Bob Larson '60 and Ted Schultz '59 won their matches. On Saturday the golfers lost to both Williams, last year's New England champions, and Harvard, 5 to 2, at the Oakley Country Club in spite of fine 73's by Rosenfeld and Larson. The Crimson also edged out Williams 4 to 3. High point of the meet was a hole in one by Dick Foster of Williams of the Difficult 210 yard 3rd hole.

Defeat Brown

Tuesday the golfers traveled to Rhode Island to match strokes with Brown and Wesleyan on the beautiful Wannamoisett Country Club course. Playing in a steady cold rain MIT emerged victorious over Brown 4 to 3, but lost to a strong Wesleyan team, 5 to 2. Rosenfeld, Clive, Larson, and Jim Hurley '59 won matches for Tech.

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The Readers Digest is still available to new subscribers at the special introductory rate of \$1.00 for 8 months or \$1.89 for 15 months until April 20. For information regarding either new or renewal subscriptions call Norman White, KI 7-3233, MIT Digest Representative.

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